(b) The above proposal was received on 08.06.2005.

(c) As per procedure the proposal is awaiting appraisal by the Expert Committee (Mining) constituted by this Ministry.

Felling of forest wood

†537. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that valuable forest wood is being felled and is being exported despite a ban on the same during the last few years which is adversely affecting environment;

(b) if so, the guidelines laid down for conservation of forests and action taken for violation of such guidelines;

(c) the quantum of wood exported during the last three years along with names of countries to which this wood has been exported; and

(d) the steps being taken to check the felling of forest wood and maintaining balance of environment in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) No, Sir. However sporadic incidents of illicit felling of trees are reported from time to time in different parts of the country. As per the State of Forest Report 2003, the forest and tree cover in the country is 23.68% of the geographical area of the country as against the year 2001 when it was 23.03%.

(b). Legal provisions under Indian Forest Act, 1927, Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972, Forest Conservation Act, 1980 and Environment Protection Act, 1986 and the rules, there-under are in place and action for violation is taken in accordance with them.

(c) Details of wood exported during last three years are as under:—

Year	Volume of wood exported (cubic metres)	Countries to which wood has been exported
2001-02	32300	France, Maldives, Nepal, Ghana, Columbia, Switzerland, USA, Belgium, Qatar, UAE, Czech Republic, Netherland, UK, Canada, Japan, Honkong, Malaysia
2002-03	13270	
2003-04	9830	

The above table shows that the magnitudes of wood export from India is very small.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) Steps being taken to check felling of forest wood are as under:—

(i) Seizure, confiscation of vehicles and articles involved in illicit felling, arresting and prosecution of offenders by the State Governments in accordance with the Indian Forest Act, 1927 and State Forest Acts.

(ii) Regular patrolling by field staff.

(iii) Inspection of forest produce in transit and checking of saw mills.

(iv) Strengthening of wireless networking.

(v) Acquiring and use of fire arms by field staff in vulnerable areas.

(vi) Protection, conservation and management of forests by the active involvement of local communities through the process of Joint Forest Management.

(vii) Deployment of Home guards and State Police personnel in special situations.

(viii) Financial assistance is provided to the State Governments under various centrally sponsored forestry and wildlife schemes for the protection and conservation of forests and wildlife.

(ix) Creation of network of protected areas i.e. Wildlife National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves.

Manual on e-waste

538. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are preparing a manual on assessing e-waste in the country;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether it is a fact that the biggest source of e-waste in India is through imports; and